Vol. III. Numb. 67.

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Obſervator *and* Country-man *meets again.* Roger *and* Joans *deſign of continuing this Paper. An Account of the* Obſervators *Tryal.*

From **Saturday** November the 4th, to **Wednesday** December the 6th, 1704.

Country-m. SO ho! *Joan*, *Joan*, bring a Pot of *October*, here's our Old Friend Maſter *Obſervator* come again. —— Maſter *Obſervator*! I am glad to ſee you with all my Heart, which was almoſt broken for want of your Company; and poor *Joan*, has ever ſince your Departure been Troubled with the *Vapours*. Here's your good Health, with all my Spirit.

Obſ. Honeſt *Country-man*, I thank thee with all my Heart. Let me ſtick a Pipe in my Face and Smoke away Sorrow.

Country-m. The *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers* did ſo Talk againſt you, and Wrote ſo many Libels againſt you, in Order to Incenſe the Government, that, I proteſt, I was all in the Dumps; I look'd as bad as the *Hog* did at *Guild-Hall*: And I thought you muſt never Write more.

Obſ. Why could'ſt thou not Write then? I thought I had Taught thee thy Trade.

Country-m. Ay, and ſo I ſhould have had the *Hog* a Grunting after me; and he would have taken me up in his Mouth, like a Bunch of *Turnips*, and have run away with me to the *Louſe-Houſe*.

Obſ. Thoſe that Wage War with the *Jacobites* and *Non-jurors* muſt expect to meet with *Tribulation*

Country-m. I proteſt, Maſter *Obſervator*, if you had not come again, our *Joan* and I would have carry'd on the Paper our ſelves, for I had Authority, or Precedent (as I think you call it) for ſo doing. Here's a Diſcourſe betwixt *Ralph Wallis*, the Cobler of *Glouceſter*, and his Wife in a Chimney Corner: They ſpoke fine things, upon my Honour; and why might not *Roger* and *Joan* have done the like? And as they fill'd their Cart with *Drunken-Prieſts*, ſo we would have fill'd ours with *Nonjuring-Parſons*, of whom *Leſly* ſhould have been One, and then have drove them to *White-Chapple* Mount, and have tumbled them into Mr. *Eldertons* Sty, to be Devoured by his *Hogs*.

Obſ. Prithee Man, thou talk'ſt Idly: Thoſe Fellows are Annointed with the Oyl of St. *Germains*: When thou think'ſt thou haſt 'em faſteſt, they'll ſlip thro' thy Fingers.

Country-m. Aye, Aye, I know they are 'Nointed Rogues; but if I cann't hold 'em in my Hand, I'll wipe off their St. *Germains* Oyl with my Oaken-Towel; and then I warrant you they ſhan't Slip thro' my Fingers. —— But, Maſter, if you are minded to carry on your Paper, I and my Wife *Joan* will quit our Deſign; for I think it unfair to take another Mans Poſt without his Conſent.

Obſ. You know I have laid down the Paper for about a Month; I had a great Cauſe to Defend, *viz.* the *Revolution*, the *Hannover-Succeſſion*, the Queens *Right* to the *Crown*, and the *Liberties* of *Engliſhmen*, all which muſt have Suffer'd in the Perſon of the *Obſervator*; for, Read his Volumns thro', and you may gueſs at ſomething 'Twas truly ſaid by one, *That it was not the Inconſiderable* Obſervator *was Queſtion'd, but the* Cauſe *and the* Party, *i. e. The* Revolution Cauſe, *the* Party *of the* Government, *and the* Defenders *of the* Rights *of the* Kingdom, *and of* Engliſh Liberty; *and this Cauſe ought to be minded with the greateſt Nicety.*

And as *Inconſiderable* a Perſon as the *Obſervator* was Repreſented to be, this very *Inconſiderable* Perſon help'd to place the Queen (whom God preſerve long to Reign, and keep from Evil Officers) on the Throne, in which Service I have receiv'd ſix or ſeven Shots in my Body, which are ſure Teſtimonials of my Fidelity, ſuch as I believe none of my Enemies can ſhow for their Services, as *Inconſiderable* as they pretend to make me.

'Tis very hard, Honeſt *Country-man*, that ſuch a Cauſe as Mine, on which the *Liberty* of the Subject depends, cannot be Pleaded without Reflection on my Council; and that they muſt be Traduc'd throughout the Kingdom by that Infamous Libeller, *Dyer*, as Perſons that Plead for *Faction* and *Sedition*: But the Event has proved it, That the Worthy Gentlemen who aſſiſted Me as Council in this Cauſe, are as Learned, as Able, and as Skillful in the Laws, as ſome that make a greater Figure than Themſelves; and, next to the Goodneſs of God, which often turns the Malicious Deſigns of Evil Men upon Themſelves, I muſt aſcribe the Event of this Cauſe to the *Learning* and *Care* of my Council; and you may be ſure I cannot paſs over the Indignities offer'd Them, without the greateſt Reſentment.

Country-m. Aye, aye, Maſter, your laying Down your Paper ſignify'd nothing; you are as much Abuſed as ever; and therefore, Pray let us know ſomething of your Tryal at *Guild-Hall*?

Obſ. I was not there; but I think it was your Duty to have been there to have Learn'd the Fate of your Friend.

Country-m. To tell you the Truth of the Buſineſs, I was there, but could not get into Court. There was a Guard upon the Door; and when I came into the Great Hall, there were I can't tell how many Thouſand Gentlemen; and by and by they cry'd out *a Hog, a Hog!* Bleſs me, thought I, is Maſter *Obſervator* got into the *Victualling-Office* again, with all his *Swine-Drivers* about him? Preſently comes by *Robbin Hog*, with his Yoke about his Neck, and his mark of Diſtinction, to ſhow whoſe *Swine* he was; then I found the meaning of that Cry, *a Hog, a Hog*.

Obſ. I am ſatisfy'd the Gentlemen preſent, meant no Diſreſpect to the Court: But it would make any People Laugh and Shout to ſee a *Hog* in Armour following a Court of Juſtice, and to hear him Grunt to the People, when he would bring on the Tryal.

Country-m. Come, Maſter, tho' you have ſome reaſon to be Angry, don't let your Paſſion bring you into any farther Trouble. Remember you were

were Prosecuted for Writing against *Officers*; and *Robbin Hog*, commonly so called, is an *Officer*, tho' a *Grand-Jury* had found a Bill against him of *Subornation* of *Perjury*, or some such little Trifle.

Obs. That part of the Information against me relating to the *Navy*, I have been an Instrument of proving before the *House of Commons*, since Her Majesties happy Accession to the Throne, as also before the *House of Lords*, in the last Session of Parliament. Here's their Lordships Representation of the Truth thereof. I can't tell if putting these Articles into an *Information*, may not, by some People, be Interpreted to be an Affront to their Lordships; for 'tis not *I*, 'tis the *Party*; I know where 'twas said. Now, if I have brought such Complaints of Abuses before the *House of Lords* or *Commons*, I have also brought Evidence to prove it; and those Persons that prov'd the matter of Fact, have been Rewarded for the same. Now, in this Case I have been no more than a Solicitor for my dear Country; and if there be a *Party* concern'd in Rectifying *Abuses*, they must mean it either of the *House of Lords* or *House of Commons*, who being our Representatives, therein do but Worthily Discharge the Trust reposed in them.

Our Noble *Patriots*, the *Peers*, at this Juncture have under their Consideration a Clandestine Trade with *France*, whereby the *French* Fleet has been supply'd with Provisions and Ammunition of War from *England*. The Gentleman that made the Discovery has been examin'd before their Lordships; and I am so well Acquainted with his Integrity, and the matter of Fact that he can prove, that I know no Discovery, ever was, or can be made, more for the Advantage of the Queen and Realm. Now this very Complaint I lay'd before the Government; and you'll think it a hard Case if I am Prosecuted for the same in the Interval of Parliament, meerly for Assisting an Honest Gentleman in laying the Designs of our Enemies before the Government, the Method of doing which he was altogether Unacquainted with.

Country-m. And yet you are said to be Guilty of Composing and Publishing a Seditious and Scandalous Libel.

Obs. I Pray God Forgive those that say so, for I am so far from being Guilty of Writing or Publishing any Seditious Libels, as has been said that I have made it my Business always to Oppose them. Tho' I know *The Exorbitant Grants*, and other Seditious Books, were presented to some Great Men: But I know no Body has been Prosecuted for *Writing*, *Printing* and *Publishing* the said Books: Let this rest as it is. But since the *Jacobites* and *Papists* take the Liberty to Write against the Government, the Rights of the Kingdom, and the *Hannover* Succession; I shall continue to oppose them, maugre the Malice of *Men* and *Devils*. Nor, herein, am I a *Seditious* or *Factious Person*, I stir up no *Discord* or *Strife*; I only catch the *Fire-Balls* of *Contention* in my hand, and throw 'em back at the heads of those who first flung 'em.

Country-m. Pray God you may beat their Brains out: But pray remember to thank God that you had *Honest Judges*.

Obs. I have the greatest Reason so to do. As also, that they are Gentlemen of *Learning*, and Skill'd in the *Laws*: For in the *Arbitrary Reigns*, the Persons plac'd on the *Bench* were generally such as were most *Ignorant*. I have been allow'd all the fair play that possibly could be allow'd; I have made, perhaps, the longest Defence that ever was made in such a Cause, and more Pleading allow'd upon it, than in the *Tryal*, *Condemnation* and *Execution* of many Hundreds of Men, and the Transportations of some Thousands in the *West*, in the Reign of King *James*; and from this Instance of my self, by comparing it with the Practices of *Judges* in *Arbitrary Reigns*, I shall, in a short time show you, That good *Judges* are one great Blessing of the *Revolution*.

Country-m. Well, Master *Observator*, God bless you. I'll Towel some Body.

Obs. And what wilt thou get by that? I have Towel'd 'em with my *Pen*, and they are never the better, and I much the worse.

Country-m. Aye, and I too. You have been in Tribulation ever since the third of *January* last, and in that time, it has Cost me above four *Load* of *Wheat* in *Money*, that I have Lent you to carry on your *Law* Charges, and which, I am afraid, you'l never be able to pay me again. And I don't know what to say to my Landlord, about his half Years Rent; he's going to *London* to see his City Wife, and, I suppose, the Young *Doxie* wants a New *Silk Gown* and *Petticoat*, a pair of *Lac'd Shoes* and a *Topping*. *Bridewel* take all the *Whores* in *Christendom*; a Landlord can't now a-days trust a half Years Rent for 'em. —— Well, Master *Observator*, I find you are Sleepy, here's a good Health to the Queen, and then to Bed.

Obs. I'll Pledge it with all my Heart. And so, Honest *Roger*, I wish thee a good Night.

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